Essay Questions for Doctoral Program Applicants

Applied Behavior Analysis Program

1. In 500 words (two typed pages) describe the areas of applied behavior analysis that most interest you – including your professional goals – and how those interests developed. How will completion of the doctoral program in Applied Behavior Analysis facilitate achieving your professional goals?

2. As a behavior analyst, you are likely to work and study with people from many different backgrounds. Please tell us in 500 words (two typed pages) some of the challenges you see studying and working with people different from yourself, and what you would contribute in your interactions.

Applied Clinical Psychology Program

In your role as a psychology student, you will likely assist individuals from diverse backgrounds in a variety of contexts. Please tell us in 750 (3 typed pages) reasons why you want to receive your Psy.D. in Applied Clinical Psychology. Include what your career aspirations are and some of the challenges you might encounter when working with diverse individuals.

Business Psychology Program

1. In what areas (e.g., selection and placement, organizational development, performance management) will you, as a business psychologist, affect or contribute to the business world? How will your contributions differ from those with an M.B.A. or other business training?

2. In your role as a business psychology student, you are likely to work and study with people from many backgrounds. In 500 words (two typed pages), tell us what will be some of the challenges for you studying with people different from yourself, and what you would contribute in your interactions with them.

Clinical Forensic Psychology Program

The field of Forensic Psychology focuses on psychology as it relates to the mergence of psychology, the law and the legal system. In forensic settings you will likely assist individuals from diverse backgrounds in a variety of different contexts. Please tell us in 750 words (3 typed pages) reasons why you want to become a Forensic Psychologist. Include what your career aspirations are and some of the challenges you might encounter when working with diverse individuals.

Clinical Psychology Program

Please answer the following two questions in two separate documents (approximately 500 words each)

1. Many people choose Clinical Psychology as a career because they are interested in helping other people. Please tell us additional reasons, other than helping people, why you would like to be a clinical psychologist. Specifically, indicate why you would like training at the doctoral level rather than at the master’s level.

2. In your role as a clinical psychology student, you are likely to work and study with people from many backgrounds. Tell us what will be some of the challenges for you studying with people different from yourself, and what you would contribute in your interactions with them.

Counselor Education & Supervision Programs

In 500 words (two typed pages) describe your professional goals as they relate to the program as well as a self-assessment of the challenges and resources needed for successful completion.

International Psychology Program

Describe why you are attracted to a PhD course of study that has as its primary focus in International Psychology. Incorporate in your response how you believe completing this program will enhance your professional career and how you might use your training to work in diverse settings and with peoples of many backgrounds.

Marital and Family Therapy Program

The field of Marital and Family Therapy (MFT) focuses on psychology as it relates to an individual’s relationships and the influences on his/her systems. In MFT settings you will likely assist individuals from diverse backgrounds in a variety of different contexts. Please tell us in 750 words (3 typed pages) reasons why you want to receive your Psy.D. in Marital and Family Therapy. Include what your career aspirations are and some of the challenges you might encounter when working with diverse individuals.

Organizational Leadership Program

Describe how leaders have personally inspired you in your professional and personal life.
Essay Questions for Post-Graduate Certificate in Academic Leadership Applicants

Please answer the following separately (approximately 500 words each):

1. People aspire to positions in academic leadership for a multitude of reasons. Describe your specific leadership aspirations (current and future) and identify specific position(s) in academia to which you aspire.

2. Colleges and universities are facing many challenges. Identify a problem at your institution that needs to be addressed for which you could take a leadership role in solving.

Essay Questions for BCBA Certificate Applicants

Please write a two page essay stating why you are interested in becoming Board Certified in Applied Behavior Analysis, and your experience in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Essay Questions for Ed.D. Program Applicants

School Psychology Program

Please answer the following separately (approximately 200 words each):

1. What are the most difficult challenges facing schools today?
2. What are the skills you are most hoping to develop in this doctoral program?

Educational Psychology & Technology Program

Please answer the following (approximately 500 words).

1. Describe your professional goals and how this professional practice doctorate program would help you in meeting these goals.
2. Additionally, please make sure you address these points:
   a. What is your motivation for pursuing an EdD in Educational Psychology & Technology?
   b. As a result of completing this program, what specific skills and/or competencies do you want to have mastered?

Essay Questions for Master in Public Health Applicants

Please answer the following within two typed pages.

1. How will your personal and professional accomplishments, academic background, and experience contribute to your success in this program?
2. How will the successful completion of this program support your professional career goals?

Essay Questions for MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling Applicants

The mission of the program is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, practices, and values of the counseling profession: empowerment, resilience, optimal development, multicultural competence, and holism, in order to promote the well-being of individuals, families, and the diverse systems that support them.

1. How would you contribute to the fulfillment of the program’s mission given your personal and professional characteristics and accomplishments, your academic background, and your experience?
2. Upon successful completion of the program, how do you see yourself contributing to the profession as a clinical mental health counselor?
Please answer the following within three double-spaced, typed pages (approximately 500 to 750 words).

Psychology is a vast discipline with many career options. In an essay format, please describe why you chose this particular program/specialization.*

Cite specific experiences and examples to illustrate:

- Why it is important to you to study this discipline at a school that emphasizes cultural awareness, competence, and understanding of diversity (see our Commitment to Diversity statement).
- Your professional career goals as they relate to this specialization.
- Why you believe this program will assist you in reaching these goals.

* Your essay must specifically address the program’s specialization to which you are applying:

- Applied Behavior Analysis Psychology
- Behavioral Economics
- Child & Adolescent Psychology
- Counseling Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Industrial & Organizational Psychology
- International Psychology
- Marital & Family Therapy
- Organizational Leadership
- Psychology
- School Psychology